

MGW

MOM GUESS WHAT NEWSMAGAZINE

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"The Heartbreak Kid?"

Blake Lewis



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VERIZON HOPELINE DONATION AIDS SAC CENTER

Verizon Wireless HopeLine Donation Helps Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center Aid Victims of Domestic Violence Fund to provide more services to help LGBT youth and adults participating in Center services in Sacramento

The Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center is a non-profit organization serving Sacramento area residents. An important Center program serves those individuals who lives have been touched by the national epidemic of domestic violence.

The Center recently received a Verizon Hopeline grant to expand its domestic violence prevention efforts. The Verizon Wireless Hopeline program supports domestic violence prevention and awareness programs in Sacramento and nationwide.

The Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center is an organization whose primary mission is to serve the needs of the LGBT community and its allies. It also seeks to bring all people together through educational programs that help end violence, hate crimes, and prejudice while promoting greater tolerance and understanding for various points of view and lifestyles.

"This generous donation from Verizon Wireless will help us continue to provide critical services and programs to those affected by domestic violence issues in our community," said William Otton, interim Executive Director at the Center. "Funds will be used to specifically provide a place to go for emergency help services and also help Center program facilitators continue our violence prevention and education efforts throughout the community." saccenter.org

11 PERCENT INCREASE IN GAY HATE CRIMES IN 2008

Report shows rise in lesbian and gay hate crimes for third year in a row.

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, responded today to the Federal Bureau of Investigation report which showed the number of victims of bias-motivated crimes based on sexual orientation increased by 11 percent in 2008. The statistics show that reported hate crimes against the LGBT community have increased for the third year in a row. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation remain the third most common type of hate crimes, behind race and religion.

"These numbers are unacceptable. While it is so important that we have the new federal hate crimes law, it is critical to ensure that we continue working with the Department of Justice to ensure the safety of LGBT citizens," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "We have to prosecute each hate crime to the fullest extent of the law, but we also need to get at the roots. When we don't know each other as human beings, ignorance breeds misunderstanding, which breeds hate, which too often this year led to violence. We have to keep fighting the prejudices and stereotypes

that underlie these acts."

On October 28, President Barack Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law. The new law gives the Justice Department the power to investigate and prosecute bias-motivated violence by providing the Justice Department with jurisdiction over crimes of violence where a perpetrator has selected a victim because of the victim's actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. In addition, it provides the Justice Department with the ability to aid state and local jurisdictions with investigations and prosecutions of bias-motivated crimes of violence.

The new law also authorizes the Justice Department to provide grants to state and local communities to cover the extraordinary expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. Moreover, it authorizes the provision of grants for local programs to combat hate crimes committed by juveniles, including programs that train local law enforcement officers in identifying, investigating, prosecuting and preventing hate crimes.

The data comes just days after the LGBT community mourned on Transgender Day of Remembrance — honoring the memories of those lost in hate crimes motivated by gender identity bias. While current data does not track crimes on based on gender or gender identity, the new hate crimes law requires the FBI to track statistics on these incidents.

The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act honors the memory of Matthew Shepard, a Wyoming college student brutally murdered in an act of hate violence in 1998, and James Byrd, an African-American man who was dragged to death in Jasper, Texas, in 1998. For a comprehensive retrospective and historical overview of hate crimes advocacy visit: www.LoveConquersHate.org.

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.

CONGRESS COMMITTEE APPROVES DOMESTIC PARTNERS LAW

BY BOYCE HINMAN
CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES UNITED INSTITUTE

Today, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, of the US House of Representatives, approved a bill (HR 2517) that would provide the domestic partners of federal employees the same employee benefits as are provided to the spouses of federal employees. The bill now goes to the floor of the House of Representatives, for a vote by the full House. The date for that vote has not yet been determined.

The benefits available to the domestic partners of federal employees, if HR 2517 is enacted, would include federal health

insurance and enhanced dental and vision benefits, retirement and disability benefits, family, medical, and emergency leave, group life insurance, long-term care insurance, compensation for work injuries, and benefits for disability, death, or captivity.

All federal employees (except those in the uniformed military services) and their domestic partners would be eligible for the benefits.

The committee debate on the bill was long and contentious. It lasted for over 5 hours.

The opponents of the bill first claimed that the bill violated the Defense of Marriage Act and went against the will of the American people, expressed in the many times they voted against same sex marriage. The supporters responded by saying the bill said absolutely nothing about marriage.

The opponents complained the bill would be too expensive. But then one of them proposed to amend the bill to allow a federal employee to name anyone to receive his employee benefits, not just a domestic partner. That would have greatly increased the cost of the bill. That amendment failed.

The opponents also tried to amend the bill to say that it did not amend the Defense of Marriage Act in any way. Again the bills supporters noted that the bill did not mention marriage at all, and this amendment would bring that concept into the bill for the first time. That amendment failed as well.

The opponents introduced amendment after amendment trying to either amend the bill in a way that would destroy its chances of passage, or at least to delay the final vote on the bill. But, curiously, one of the opponents seemed to complain at how long it was taking to deal with the bill. Happily the bill was finally approved and sent to the full House of Representatives.

You may see a copy of the bill, and related documents by directing your browser to the following address: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.2517>:

SACRAMENTO TO OBSERVE WORLD AIDS DAY

Take a public stand against HIV/AIDS. On Dec. 1, CARES, along with other community groups, are giving you the chance to participate in a global event remembering those we've lost to this disease, and rallying around the future of HIV/AIDS research and prevention. Sacramento's World AIDS Day event starts at 6 p.m. at the Tower Theatre.

Event highlights: The 2009 theme, "Past/Present/Future," will remember individuals lost to the disease, discuss the present epidemic, and focus on ending new HIV infections in the greater Sacramento area. Hear speeches from Sister Mary Redempta, Dr. Donna DeFreitas and HIV+ community member Miguel Diaz. See panels from the National AIDS Memorial Quilt, the largest community art project in the world. The panels contain names of people from the Sacramento area who have passed away. Participate in a remembrance ceremony for those we have lost to HIV/AIDS.

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\$6.99 add cheese or bacon for \$1.00

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Currently the US military prohibits LGBT people from serving openly. They can only do so if they don't tell anyone about their sexual orientation or gender identity. This prevents LGBTI people, who think serving in the military is a way of expressing their patriotism, from serving their country in this way unless they lie about or hide their sexuality. This can result in great emotional stress.

Also, in these economic hard times, many LGBTI people might want to join the military simply to have a paying job. Again, currently, this is only possible if they engage in the very stressful practice of hiding their true identity.

However, a report on a study done by the Palm Center, at the University of California, brings new evidence that the current policy is without any rational basis. For many years the rationale for this policy has been the claim that the presence of open LGBTI people in military units would be destructive of the unit cohesion that is essential in combat situations. It has been said this lack of cohesion would result from the discomfort of other military personnel when open LGBTI people are in their combat units.

The Palm Center study reviewed the

attitudes of veterans of the Iraq and Iran wars. They found these war veterans said knowing that a unit member was gay or lesbian "was not uniquely related to unit cohesion". More important to unit cohesion and readiness, they said, were factors such as: the quality of leaders, equipment, and training.

You may see the full report of the Palm Center by keying the following link into your web browser: <http://www.calcomui.org/PalmCenterStudyOnGaysInMilitary.pdf>

Other studies have shown that the current policy is very expensive, in dollars, and it robs our military of people with critical skills. A 2005 report by the General Accounting Office, of the federal government, summarized some of those costs. The report said:

"From the passage of the homosexual conduct policy statute, in fiscal year 1994, through fiscal year 2003, the military services separated about 9,500 service members for homosexual conduct.

Approximately 8 percent of the 9,488 service members separated for homosexual conduct held critical occupations, identified by DOD as those occupations worthy of selective re-

enlistment bonuses.

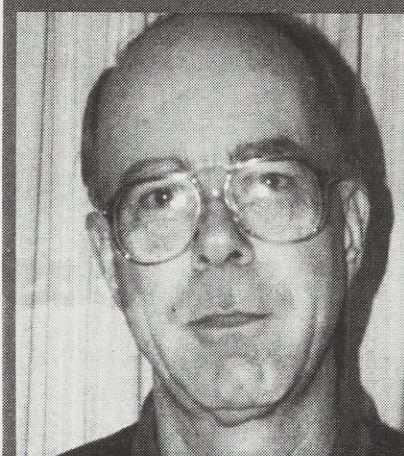
Also, 3 percent of separated service members had some skills in an important foreign language such as Arabic, Farsi, or Korean."

We have been hearing a lot lately about service members suffering extreme stress resulting from repeated tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those stresses could have been reduced, at least a bit, by the larger army that would have been the result of not discharging people with critical skills. With a larger army it might not have been necessary to send people back so often.

The GAO report also estimated that it cost the military roughly \$95 million to recruit and train replacements for the service members discharged for reasons of sexual orientation between 1994 and 2003. Surely this money could have been better spent in other ways.

Hopefully, these facts will add fuel to the drive to end the US military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy.

You may see a copy of the GAO report by keying the following link into your web browser: calcomui.org/AOStudyonCostOfMilitaryDiscrimination.pdf



BY BOYCE HINMAN, CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITIES UNITED INSTITUTE
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**Good News On
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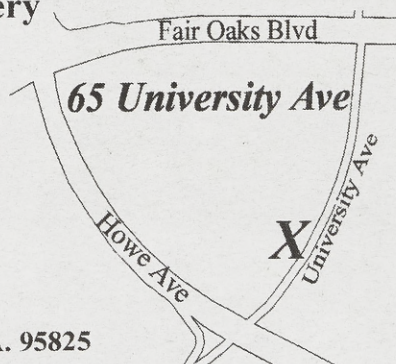
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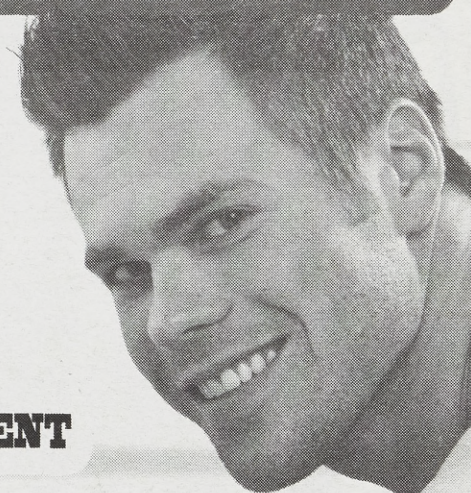
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Blake Lewis: The 'Heartbreak' Kid

BLAKE LEWIS IS NO STRANGER TO HEARTBREAK.

BY MIKEY ROX

On the show that made him famous — “American Idol” — he was voted second best to winner Jordin Sparks; his debut album, “Audio Day Dream,” was released to mixed reviews and stalled at fewer than half-a-million copies sold; and at least one romantic interest in his life has let him down not so gently.

But don't cue the melancholic music just yet. Because it seems that despite the emotional and creative rollercoaster that has defined his past couple of years, Lewis' pain is his fans' gain.

Armed with a new album, “Heartbreak on Vinyl,” and a new lease on his personal and professional life, the beatboxing wunderkind returns with an organic, unapologetic record that, well, sets the record straight.

Its message? Lewis is nobody's doormat. And that goes double for you, Clive Davis.

MIKEY ROX: It's been a couple of years since you first appeared on “American Idol” — what's your take on the show now that you're an alumnus?

Blake Lewis: It's kind of surreal now. It's a great, quality show that America loves. It's fun looking back at it now. I never watched it. I'll watch some of the episodes now, and I went and saw three shows live. That was a trip.

MR: Your debut album, “Audio Day Dream,” received mixed reviews when it was released, and in an interview you once said that you “learned a lot since then.” What did you mean by that?

BL: By recording in a way that I did. I was constantly on tour. I worked with some amazing producers and I'm a producer myself. I learned a lot of tricks of the trade. Some are great vocal producers, some aren't. I learned a lot technically. Learned a lot about a major label. Big eye-opener. I knew I had to step up the game immediately.

MR: Your sophomore album, “Heartbreak on Vinyl,” dropped in early October. How is this album different from “ADD”?

BL: It's a completely different record. My melodic sensibility is different. This is a dance-indie-pop record; I kinda describe it as that. It's very progressive. Great for driving, working out, for the club. Each track is different and unique and it's a more personal record. It's about a relationship about a woman I was in love with and also the record industry that's eating itself up.

MR: Looking back on “ADD,” and with “Heartbreak” under your belt, do you feel that [your former label] Arista held a lot of the creative control?

BL: I never wanted to be with a major label. I was already signed coming out of “American Idol.” I was forced into that position, but I made the best of it.

MR: How much influence did Clive Davis have on the song selection of ADD?

BL: He passed on “How Many Words,” a song that I was really excited about. He tested it. It was the highest tested song on the record. He apologized. I was right, he was wrong. I was really upset. Business people should stay out of the creative process. Especially older ones who are hard of hearing.

MR: Since you're stint on “American Idol,” you've been privy to some pretty cool experiences — like getting First Lady Michele Obama to beatbox at the Congressional Clubs' First Lady's Luncheon. What else has happened to you in your rise to fame, where you've been, like, “Wow, this is awesome”?

BL: There have been many amazing opportunities and collaborations. Michele was definitely on the top. It was pretty amazing singing in front of 1,000 women of Congress. I taught them all how to beatbox. I was honored to be there.

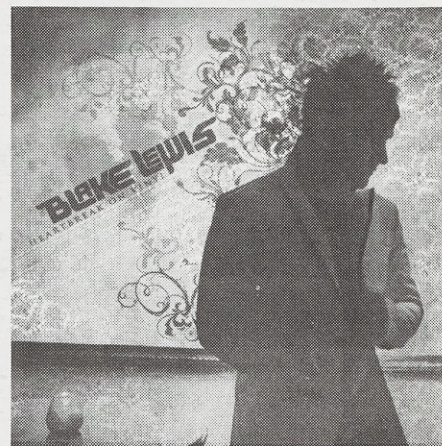
MR: You're part of the growing number of people who have participated in Adam Bouska's NO H8 photo campaign. As someone who identifies as heterosexual, why is championing equal rights for the LGBT community important to you?

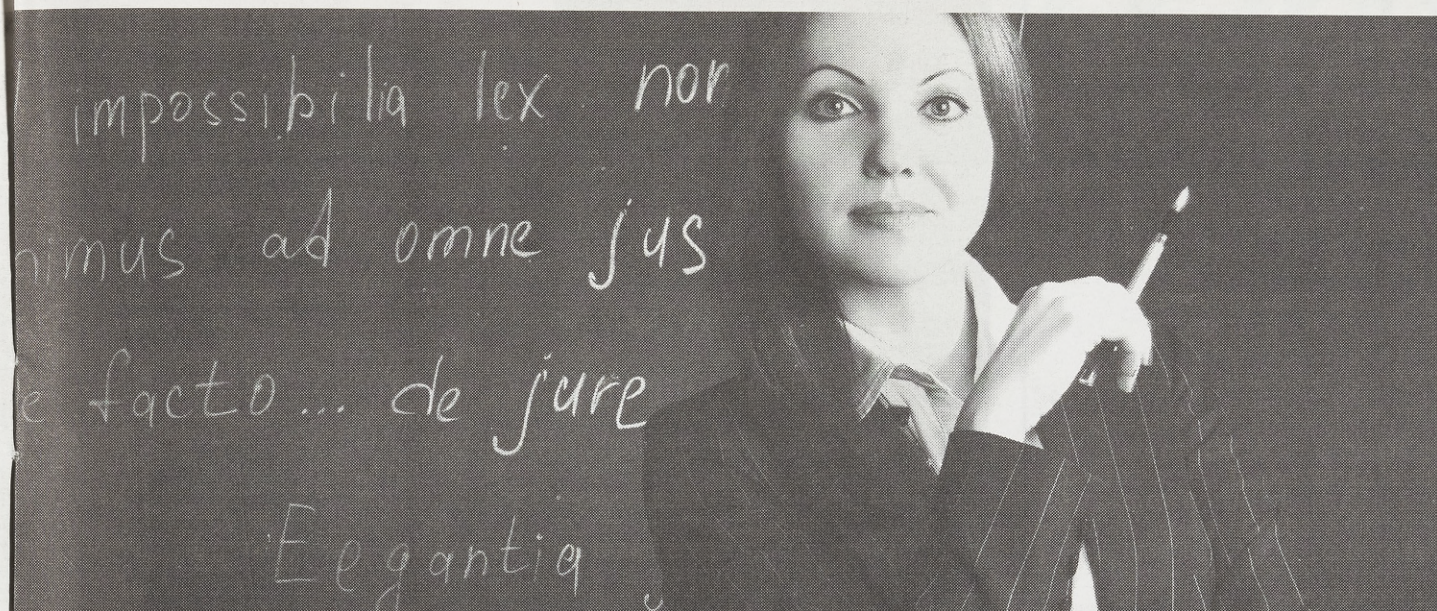
BL: Isn't that the American way? We're born in a country that's supposed to be free, yet there are all these policies and rules that allow us not to be. I support my friends who are gay and struggling with issues. If I can help my friends in any way, I will.

MR: What's on your Christmas list?

BL: I totally thought of something this morning, and I forgot. I think I was thinking of Christmas things to make. I'm a photographer and I like '80s pop art and graphic design, so I think I'll make things for my friends and family this year.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist/writer and the principal of Paper Rox Scissors, a copywriting and creative consulting company in New York City. Find him at paperroxscissors.com.





I recently went back to college to earn a degree in something other than my first two career paths. I wasn't quite sure how comfortable I would feel as a lesbian that's been out of school and in the workforce for quite some time.

As it turns out, there are lots of people my age doing the same thing, at least in night classes. As for LGBT's though, there is not so much of an obvious presence. I guess we're here and there like anywhere else, but not exactly a majority, so I initially felt a little out of place in that way.

What's new though? My second semester, I entered the classroom for the first time in my new class with no idea what the instructor was going to be like.

Of course there were way more students than there was room for, with a line of people waiting to see if they could add. I found a seat near the back of the room next to someone that looked fairly friendly, then looked up to see the instructor.

Something unexpected happened. She sort of looked like a lesbian, and my gaydar is usually pretty good. Uh oh. I sometimes find that when we (lesbians) meet each other in public places it can be a little bit awkward.

I resolved to just sit through class and act like I didn't notice. I listened as she talked to the class here and there about her children and I thought "oh boy", she's going out of her way to act like a heterosexual (I hate that), or I guess maybe she really is a heterosexual who just wears comfortable shoes. Oh, well, whatever.

As it turns out, my new instructor became my new hero with only a brief announcement on the second night of class. She had been talking about her kids here and there during the lesson, then casually turned to the class one moment and said something like "Oh yeah, didn't I tell you guys I'm gay? My partner is a woman who is also a teacher at a local elementary school. We're married, and we have two small children together. I guess all of the homophobes can leave now if

they have a problem, then the students that want to be here that there isn't room for can have a spot in the class".

She went right back to teaching the class without ever skipping a beat. Nobody left or said a word.

I had the biggest smile inside, and all I could think is "No she did not? You go girl, I'm gonna love this class!" I'll go ahead and call her "Mrs. S". It just so turns out that "Mrs. S" is also an awesome instructor with a very quick witted and sometimes borderline reckless sense of humor that the students have a great time with.

She's one of those instructors that students follow around from semester to semester so they can actually learn what they need to and get through the required classes with a passing grade that they earned. They even said she was "hot" on RateMyProfessor.com, which is something we had a good laugh with her about in the class.

On top of all of the funny stuff though, it was clear she was sincere in her desire to teach, especially for those who were struggling, which she was quite effective with.

She made struggling students want to try because they knew she wanted to help them and they could pass if they just didn't give up. She didn't go easy on anyone, she encouraged learning. We got through the semester as a cohesive group. It was a really nice learning environment.

I think "Mrs. S" set the tone from the very beginning by putting her own vulnerability and authority out there in a way that made everyone set aside their prejudices and pretentiousness and just work together.

Throughout the semester she would talk to us about her wife and their kids in a way that made the students realize our families are just like theirs. They couldn't say anything or leave anyway if they needed to pass the class, and I thought that was just awesome.

I never heard one student say anything negative about her. In fact, every time I

heard anyone say anything about what kind of teacher or person she was, it was always positive. They never mentioned homosexual.

It probably wouldn't have worked if she weren't a good teacher of her subject that had the skill to create an open environment at the same time, but she was and she did. I'm sure that there were many students in the class that changed their preconceived negative opinions toward LGBT people and families, or at least thought twice about it being OK to insult LGBT people or their families, because "Mrs. S" had the courage to stand up for all of us in a way.

She is a great teacher and role model that is a silent hero for all LGBT people and families in my mind, changing one student's opinion at a time. Initially the idea was to write this story about her and her wife, who I have never met, but I am sure is also a great teacher that deserves the same kind of recognition.

I had asked if I could take a picture of their family and do an interview about their backgrounds, etc. Her wife however is an elementary teacher at a public school. Although she wanted to be able to be "out" for this article in an effort to possibly give others the courage to stand up for all of us like "Mrs. S" has, she understandably can't.

The sad reality and purpose of this story is that there are still some people in this society that believe somehow a person that is as self sacrificing as a teacher, who they may think is the most wonderful person, all of the sudden would likely be perceived as some kind of deviant who was going to damage their children if they came out of the closet. How ignorant and ironic is that?

People need more education, and those that are good educators deserve our respect and support. My hat is off to both of you ladies for your courage and dedication.

You are making a big difference for others everyday by doing what you do. I have been inspired by your example, and I wanted to share my experience with the hope that maybe someone else will be too.

Thank you.



BY JENIFFER WERTZ

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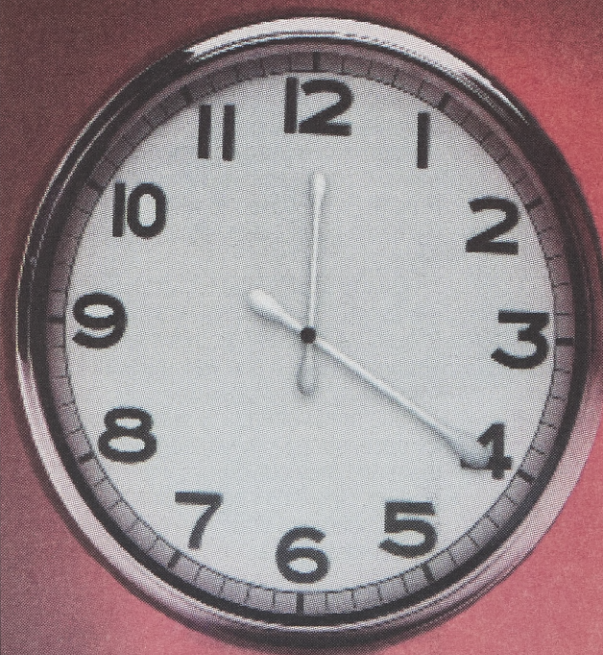
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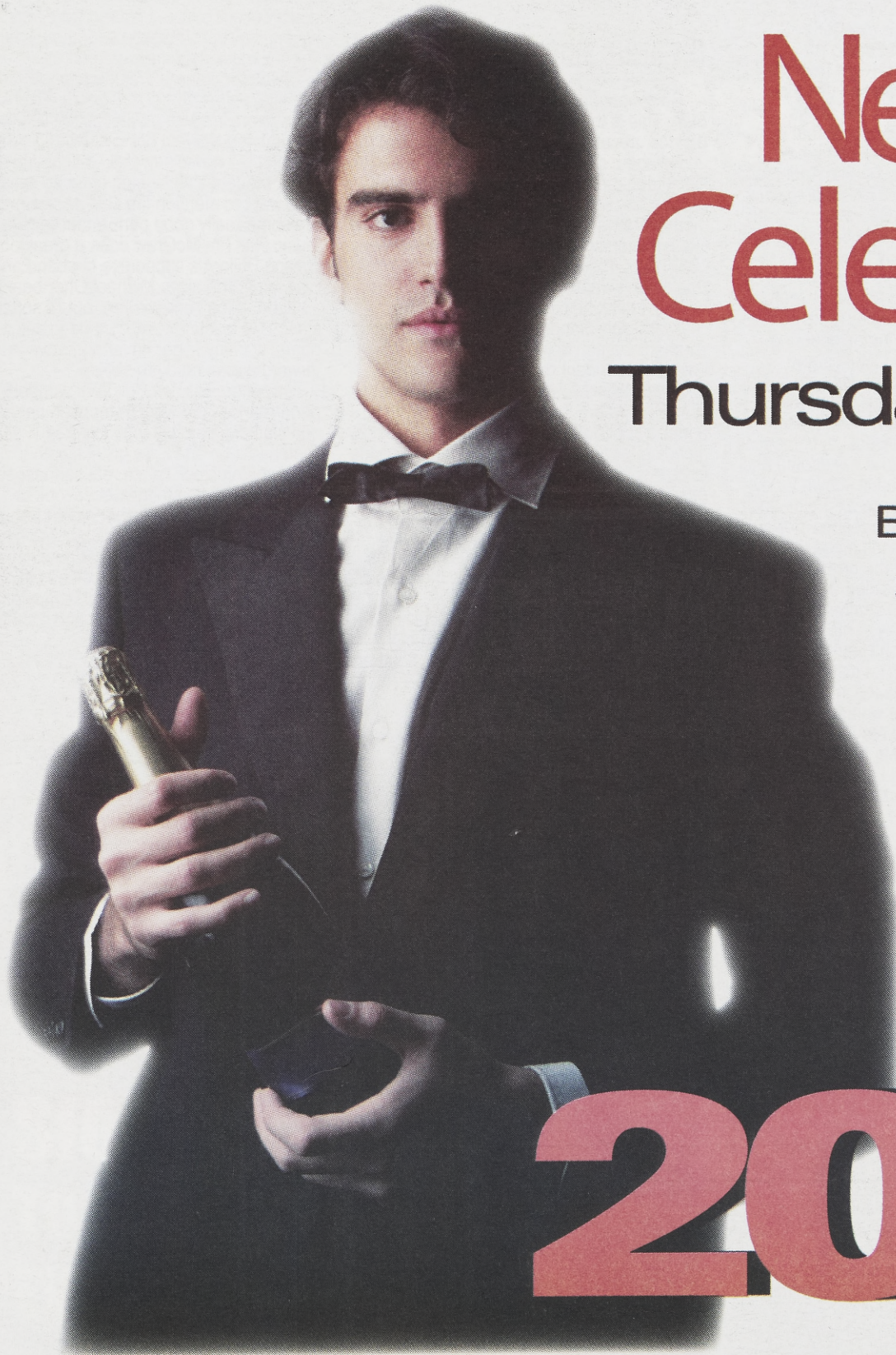
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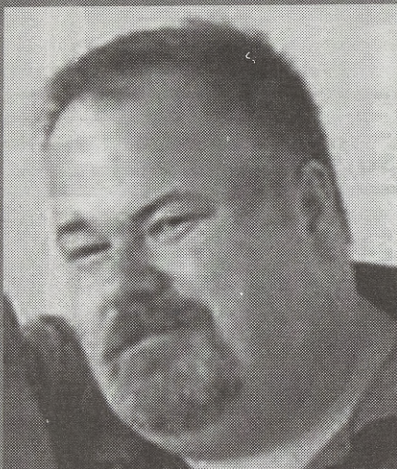
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TOM SWANNER HAS BEEN A FILM REVIEWER FOR 11+ YEARS. HE LIVES IN SACRAMENTO WITH HIS 26-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND SEAN AND THEIR GROSSLY OBESE DAUGHTER (READ DOG) "HONEY".



BRIAN JUDD HAS BEEN A FILM REVIEWER FOR 7 YEARS. HE LIVES IN THE BURBS WHERE HE FRIGHTENS HIS NEIGHBORS AND A PORTRAIT OF ANITA BRYANT HANGS OVER HIS BED SO HE CAN POINT AT HER AND LAUGH DAILY. HE IS ALONE AND BITTER AND LIKES IT THAT WAY.

Swanner & Judd

SWANNERANDJUDD.COM

THE FANTASTIC MR. FOX

Judd: Wes Anderson is a demigod to geeks everywhere. His movies are tragically humorous and chock full quirky retro-isms. *The Royal Tenenbaums* ranks as one of my favorite movies, so when I heard that Wes Anderson would be directing Roald Dahl's *The Fantastic Mr. Fox*, my heart skipped a beat because I knew that I was going to love every single hipster minute of it while Tom would be grinding his teeth into stumps.

Swanner: I must admit that I wasn't looking forward to anything directed by the overrated Anderson but being the professional I am ... I went. Right from the beginning I notice that Anderson used the animation once perfected by the artists known as Rankin-Bass. Of course that was the 60's and the geniuses at Pixar have developed this new animation that Anderson obviously spat in the face. The script to what I'm told does follow the book (note to myself ... don't read the book) which offers Anderson and gang to angst their way through 87 minutes of claymation fun ... sort of.

Judd: The story follows Mr. Fox (George Clooney) and his family as they try to survive attempts on their lives by the neighboring farmers. Mr. Fox has given into his wild animal instincts and has been stealing from the famers against the wishes of his wife (Meryl Streep). Meanwhile his son (Jason Schwartzman) who is "different", is competing with his visiting cousin who is handsome and athletic. As I said, Anderson is known for his retro quirkiness and just because Pixar, and more aptly Tim Burton, have refined stop-motion animation that doesn't mean there isn't there isn't a place for the unsophisticated stylings of yesteryear. It's called "reverence".

Swanner: Reverence ... really? Looks more like cheap and/or lazy to me and I know cheap and lazy! I don't want to make it sound like I hated it, I didn't. I just felt it was either too juvenile or it was too intellectual. I know that's how Anderson works and I don't like it. The best part of the movie (and what won me over) was when Mr. Fox first ate his breakfast. At that point I couldn't hate. I think Clooney and Schwartzman were really good voices to use but the rest were basically forgettable. I have been whistling like Mr. Fox all morning ... my co-workers hate me.

Judd: Yes, we know how much you dislike thinking, so it doesn't surprise me you find Wes Anderson an immature intellectual — and I disagree that the other voices were forgettable. Bill Murray gave a good performance as the Badger, and Willem Dafoe was excellent as the rat. What really stuck me is how well the Anderson trademarks worked in an animated film. The tight close ups, the overhead shots, the colors. All of them worked really well. They were definite Anderson shots, but none of them seemed forced in.

Swanner: So it was deliberate to have most of the screen over their heads empty? I figured the projectionist was drunk again. I don't want to own it but I would watch it again so I guess that shows you how much I didn't hate it. I hope Anderson has got this "animated" thing done with so he can go back to making more movies like *Life Aquatic* which he does so well.

Judd: You were trying to be funny by picking his worst movie — but *Life Aquatic* is

where Anderson got his start in stop-motion animation. So the joke's on you, Fatty. I'm curious to see how this is going to play against *Up* come Oscar time. *Up* is Pixar and Pixar is golden, sure. But is Hollywood finally going to get tired of handing the little golden man over to Pixar? Especially when *The Fantastic Mr. Fox* is something completely different than anything released in recent years. We'll see.

Swanner: 2 Stars

Judd: 4 Stars

THE BLIND SIDE

Swanner: Opening this week is *The Blind Side*. This is the latest film starring Sandra Bullock, about a white family that brings a under-aged, oversized and undereducated black teenager into their home and family guiding him ultimately to be picked twenty-third overall in the 2009 NFL draft. Towing the line between sports movie and heartwarming family film, *The Blind Side* succeeds at both. Brian didn't want to see this movie ... saying he didn't think he could handle it.

Judd: Ugh, Sandra Bullock being a sassy southern woman donating her time, tough-love and abundant resources to aid an underprivileged youth. Was there a moment in the film where it was nothing but Bullock under a spot addressing the Academy directly pleading for an Oscar? Not that there needed to be such a moment seeing that the whole movie is a giant sham built around the most winnable formula. From the trailers alone, you can literally hear the producers sitting around a table talking about what elements from past recipients will increase the odds of a win.

Swanner: See you are almost totally wrong with this movie. Sandy plays Leigh Anne Touhy, a firm and a little sassy Southern woman who never plays to the camera (or the Academy) and the movie tells a really

inspirational story that never tries to go for the four hanky free-for-all that we see in so many movies of this type. The film is based on Michael Lewis's book "The Evolution of the Game", who also wrote the script with director John Lee Hancock, which follows the families fight to change this young mans life. You would have liked this film more than you think. I'm not saying you would have loved it but I don't think you would have hated it.

Judd: Well, then they should have advertised the movie better, because I kept waiting for the single glycerin tear to run down Bullock's face. I figured they were saving the real waterworks for the movie, Tammy Faye style mascara and all.

Swanner: I agree that the preview looked like every other film of this genre. That would have been fine with me because I like the over the top tearfest but *The Blind Side* did just that ... I never saw this film coming and never thought it was going to be so satisfying. I did want to mention the cast because there are some really good performances. Country music star Tim McGraw does a great job playing Bullock's supportive husband and Quinton Aaron plays Michael Oher beautifully.

Judd: I don't believe you, but I'll soften my stance. At least now I'm curious to see it — at home, with my finger hovering above the fast-forward button ready to strike.

Swanner: Besides Bullock's wonderful performance I did want to mention her hair and clothing. Her hair was wonderful, she's lightened it up and it's a great length to give her a youthful look with a real softness to counter her dark, straight, boss-look in *The Proposal* and her clothes were just Fabulous! *The Blind Side* gives Bullock has her best chance at picking up an Oscar nomination this year if the film does as well as I think it should. I definitely say see this movie if you're as done with vampires and disaster films as I am.

Swanner: 3 1/2 Stars



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SONYA COX HAS BEEN MGW'S HIV/AIDS EDITOR SINCE 1986 (22 YEARS). SHE BEGAN AT MGW AS A VOLUNTEER PROOFREADER BEFORE BEGINNING THE HIV NEWSWIRE COLUMN. SHE ALSO BEGAN THE "IN LOVING MEMORY" COLUMN IN EARLY 1993 (15 YEARS AGO). THE JUNE 1993 COLUMN CONTAINED 6 NAMES; JUNE 2008 CONTAINED 77. THE ENTIRE YEAR'S LIST NOW CONTAINS OVER 1000 NAMES—MOST BEING DEATHS FROM HIV.

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SIERRA HOPE: PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV & AIDS. SIERRA HOPE, 1168 BOOSTER WAY, P.O. BOX 159, ANGELS CAMP, CA, 95222, 209.736.6792, SIERRAHOPE.ORG

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FIRST STEP TOWARD FEDERAL SAME-SEX BENEFITS BILL ...

The "Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act of 2009," which would significantly broaden the health and other benefits available to the same-sex domestic partners of federal employees, has been approved by the House Committee on Government Reform. The bill now moves to the full House for a vote, and then thru the Senate on its journey to the President to hopefully be signed into law.

The bill (HR 2517) would extend benefits such as participation in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, retirement and survivor benefits, relocation reimbursements, and other benefits currently offered to spouses of federal employees. To receive these benefits, an employee would have to certify in an affidavit that his or her relationship satisfies the criteria for establishing a domestic partnership.

The Office of Personnel Management says, "This is an essential recruitment tool as we seek the best and the brightest to tackle the many challenges America faces."

ELTON JOHN CONCERNED ABOUT COMPLACENCY ...

Elton John, in a recent appearance at the eighth annual benefit for the Elton John AIDS Foundation, said he worries that young people are not taking seriously the high possibility of HIV infection. "We are finding that too many young people are not listening to what we are saying," he said. "I'm afraid people do get a little complacent about the disease by going out and having unsafe sex."

The New York City event honored dedicated supporters, including Bill Clinton and actress Sharon Stone, for their continued efforts in the fight against AIDS. It was Elton's first appearance since falling extremely ill and being hospitalized with the flu last month.

PHOTO: SHARON STONE WAS RECENTLY HONORED BY THE ELTON JOHN AIDS FOUNDATION FOR HER UNTIRING EFFORTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS. PHOTO BY ANDREW WALKER, WIREIMAGE.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL TO FIRE HIV POLICE OFFICERS ...

Poland's 1991 directive declaring that people with HIV were "entirely incapable of working" within the police force was finally struck down this month by that country's Constitutional Tribunal. The court was asked to rule on the matter after a police officer, on the force since 1998, was fired when he tested positive in 2006.

"While the presence of the AIDS virus can, in effect, be considered undesirable in the case of rescue patrols, there are a number of posts in which it is not important, such as police administration, teaching, as well as analytical and other departments," the court said in their statement. The fired officer, who was present in the courtroom, intends to return to work.

NEW MEXICO EXPANDS MEDICINAL POT LIST ...

A New Mexico medical advisory board is recommending more chronic conditions to the list of people who can use medical marijuana. Their program provides protection from state prosecution for approved users. It has 284 approved users statewide so far.

The state already allows its use for pain and other symptoms from 14 debilitating illnesses such as cancer, glaucoma, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, Lou Gehrig's disease, HIV/AIDS, and certain spinal cord injuries — seven of those added after a review this past February.

Now the advisory board is recommending eight additional conditions — chronic muscle inflammation accompanied by muscle weakness, severe osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, reactive arthritis, post-polio syndrome, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, and severe chronic pain.



CANADA WARNS FLORIDA "SNOWBIRDS" OF HIV WHILE VACATIONING ...

Many retired folks living in colder climates of the U.S. and Canada go south in their mobile homes for the winter — many heading for the Arizona area. But those heading to Florida are being given some strong advice this year by Canadian health officials — to be aware that they will be arriving in a community that has the highest U.S. rates of HIV/AIDS among those older than 50.

Older adults, including those dating again after divorce or the death of a spouse, may not necessarily be aware that HIV should be a concern.

A professor of gerontology and her team at Canada's Univ of Waterloo note that HIV testing among Canadian snowbirds is "relatively low." Testing, usually prompted by insurance requirements, was reported by only one out of five respondents to a recent survey on awareness. The country's National Health Population Survey does not ask sexual health questions of those 50 or older.

The researchers are trying to get the word out, and worry that those over 50 and on vacation could be susceptible to a carefree "what-happens-in-Vegas stays-in-Vegas" sort of mentality. "We need to get a dialogue going where people are comfortable speaking about sex and sexual risk issues so that we don't see a growth of HIV infection here as they have already seen in the U.S. southern states," they said.

OBESITY MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT MEDS...

The immune systems of obese people with HIV don't respond to anti-retroviral therapy as well as do those of people of a more normal weight, say researchers who recently presented their findings to the annual meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

"The obese were found to regain fewer CD4-positive T-cells after they start therapy than do people with normal weight," they said, indicating that these recent data may imply that obesity — which has its own separate known ill effects — poses an additional risk to people with HIV. This research was based on data collected from participants in the Military Natural History Study, with 1119 people who became positive between 1986 and 2008.

"The irony is that, in the past, we have been concerned that people with HIV infection were losing too much weight," said one of the participating physicians. Now, he said, "this research is showing that there needs to be more of a focus on maintaining a balanced weight without going to the other extreme."

The researchers say it's not clear why obesity should have such an effect. Among other possibilities, they note, it might be that standard drug dosages, which are determined in clinical trials that follow people of more normal weights, may simply not be enough for obese patients. Or, there may be something about the extra weight itself that limits the effects of medications.



CDC FACT SHEETS ...

Keep yourself up to date on the most recent information about prevention, transmission, and risk thru the Center for Disease Control's fact sheet web site. It can answer many of your questions regarding transmission via oral sex, condom facts, etc. — so list this under your "favorites" and look at it from time to time — www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/index.htm. □

AUSTRALIANS TO BE TESTED AFTER STERILIZATION ERROR...

Officials at Bundaberg Hospital in southern Queensland are recommending blood tests for 274 people recently treated at the facility's dental clinic after it was discovered that one batch of dental instruments cleaned on Nov. 6 was not subjected to the final steam sterilization process before being reused.

All those treated during that week will be tested for hepatitis A, B and C, and HIV. Health workers have so far contacted 31 of the original 33 people on whom the instruments were used. None so far has reported having a blood-borne infection.

"If there were blood-borne viruses at the onset of cleaning, the risk of transmission to a subsequent client of the clinic is considered very low for hepatitis B and extremely low for hepatitis C and HIV," said an infectious-disease physician with the Health Service.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF FRIENDS LOST IN DECEMBER

DECEMBER 1984:
FRANK COOK

DECEMBER 1985:
FELIX DRAMAS

DECEMBER 1986:
RICK HERNANDEZ

DECEMBER 1987:
RON PARSONS

DECEMBER 1988:
LINDA COTTRELL
DAVID MARUS
RICHARD VAUGHN
RALPH TRAINOR
SYLVESTER

DECEMBER 1989:
KENNETH ALLEN KARRISH
BILL QUINN
DONNY DINGLER
ROY FRISCH
AL VALDEZ
BILL LEMEN
STAN MIGUEL-WARD
WAYNE RASMUSSEN
BOB FERRELL
BRUCE McDONOUGH

DECEMBER 1990:

JIMMIE COLLIER
GARY BATCHER
JOHNATHAN FRANCORCW
WILLIS JAMES
EDWARD LENNANE
JIM NOLAN

DECEMBER 1991:
STAN HADDEN
FATHER DAVID MYERS
CHARLES JAMES HRIBAL, JR.
TOMMY GOSSETT
LEONARD WILCOX
GILBERT LOPEZ

DECEMBER 1992:
MICHAEL PATTERSON
JIM GRAHAM
MICHAEL BARRETT
JIM SCAMAN
JERRY DYE
MARGARET COELHO
XAVIER FRANCO

DECEMBER 1993:
KIM INGRAHAM
LEROY DAVIDSON
ED WALKER
MARY KING
JAMES EDWARD GRAVES
CLIFF CLARK
PAUL CONTRERAS

ROD ASHLEY
ALFRED H. GAUL, JR.
KENRIC BROWN
MICHAEL CALLEN

DECEMBER 1994:
GARY SMITH
RONNIE NEAL
GEORGE SMITH
GREGG CRANERT
RIC MARINO
LINDA L.
BROOK R.
ROBERT DARRELL LIPPINCOTT
DAMON WILSON
JOHN KIELY
PHILIP JOHNSON
SAMMY SLATER
JERRY MOYER
MIKE DAVIS
MICHAEL NABER
HENRY MEJIA

DECEMBER 1995:
PERRY FLORIO
MICHAEL BROOKS
DAVID BELL
DAVID C.
THOMAS D.
JAMES JUMPER
ERIC MASK
BILL W.

BILLY V.
KENT HULL
WILLIAM C.
BRIDGETTE R.
RICHARD STEVEN SYKES
ROBERT P.
CHARLES J.
MICHAEL MEARS

DECEMBER 1996:
PAUL ARTHUR YOUNG
ROBERT KELLY
EMANUEL C.
MIKE SMITH
VERNE B.
ERIC L.
ROGER DALE HELMS
CHUCK D.
SCOTT DEERING
DAVID CANNALES

DECEMBER 1997:
KIRK DERBY

DECEMBER 1998:
JEFF SMITH
MICHAEL M.
CECIL S.

DECEMBER 1999:
RENI O.

DECEMBER 2000:
GARY SHAW
THOMAS SCOTT MOUNTAIN

DECEMBER 2001:
KEITH THOMAS ("SAMMY JOE")

DECEMBER 2003:
GREGORY PAUL O'NEILL
RASHIDI "ROC" AHMAD

DECEMBER 2004:
CLIFFORD CARTE
KATHRYN LAMADRID

DECEMBER 2006:
TONY STELLA

YEAR UNKNOWN:
JOHN WALTERS
FRANK WASCO
BILLIE WASHINGTON, JR.
RICK WITNAH
WILLIE YOUNG

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF FRIENDS LOST LAST MONTH

NOVEMBER 2009:
PAUL BRUCE GUTHRIE

EVERY NOW AND THEN, TAKE A SECOND, BREATHE DEEPLY, AND THINK OF ME.

TO ADD THE NAMES OF LOVED ONES TO MGW'S REMEMBRANCE COLUMN CALL 737-0309.

The Art of June Vargas

Tell us a bit about yourself

I am a 50-year-old West Sacramento native. In my real life, I am an Information Officer for the State of California. I am also an experienced editor, writer, photographer, and printer. Although I have been shooting for 15 years, I had my first solo show in Sacramento in October 2009.

When did you first know you wanted to pursue photography?

I used to be the kind of person who had four years' worth of Christmas tree photos on the same roll of film! I was laid off in 1994 and decided to go back to school because I just couldn't see myself being a warehouse worker all of my life. I took my first black and white photography class at Sacramento City College as part of a Journalism and Graphic Communications curriculum as got hooked.

What's your preferred medium?

I shoot mainly digital now, but it took years to get me to switch from digital to film.

Do you have any artistic influences?

Not really. I learned to shoot photos for newspapers, which meant I learned to make a shot out of what was in front of me and to do it quickly because once the event is over, that's it. I am not a very patient shooter but I am trying to learn to be. I'm always seeing photo possibilities while

driving or walking. I'm not very scientific about it; I don't worry about tweaking the camera's settings. I just shoot.

What inspires you?

I look for the unusual in everyday objects; a reflection, the way the light hits a leaf, things that I usually see as part of the landscape but are very interesting when I pay attention.

What was your most memorable shot?

They all have a story behind them; I've laid in the middle of the road, slogged through mud, been chased off by dogs...you name it.

Do you believe with the increased digital world that print photography as is a dying art?

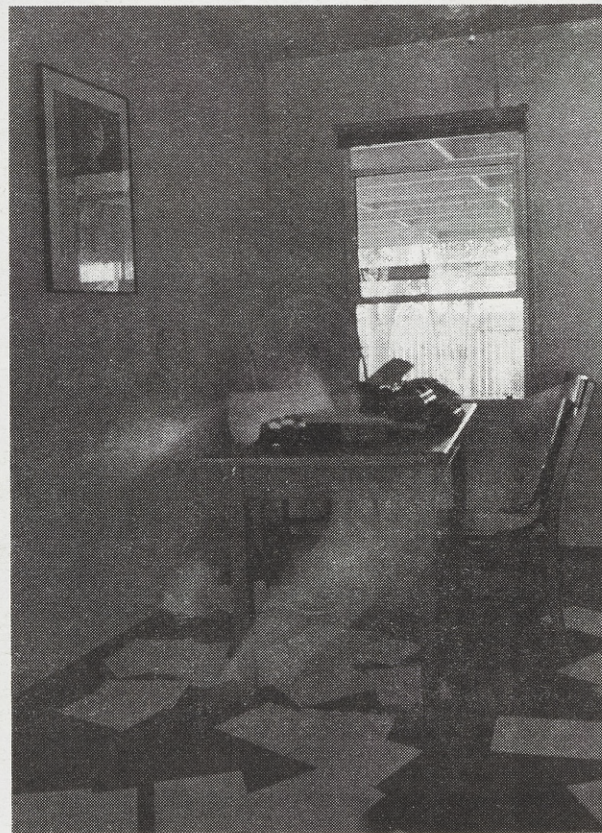
Print photography is alive and well; the art is really in the printing. Digital is more economical because you can pick and choose which shots to use rather than have to print the roll first; it's also the best for uploading and sharing. I still shoot film, mainly in black and white because digital photography can't match the warmth and detail.

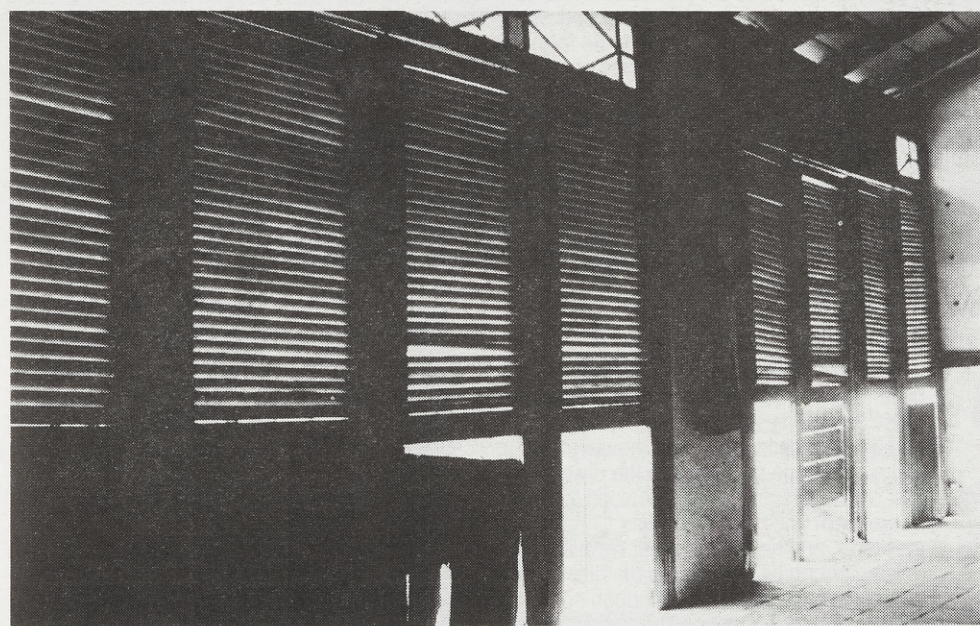
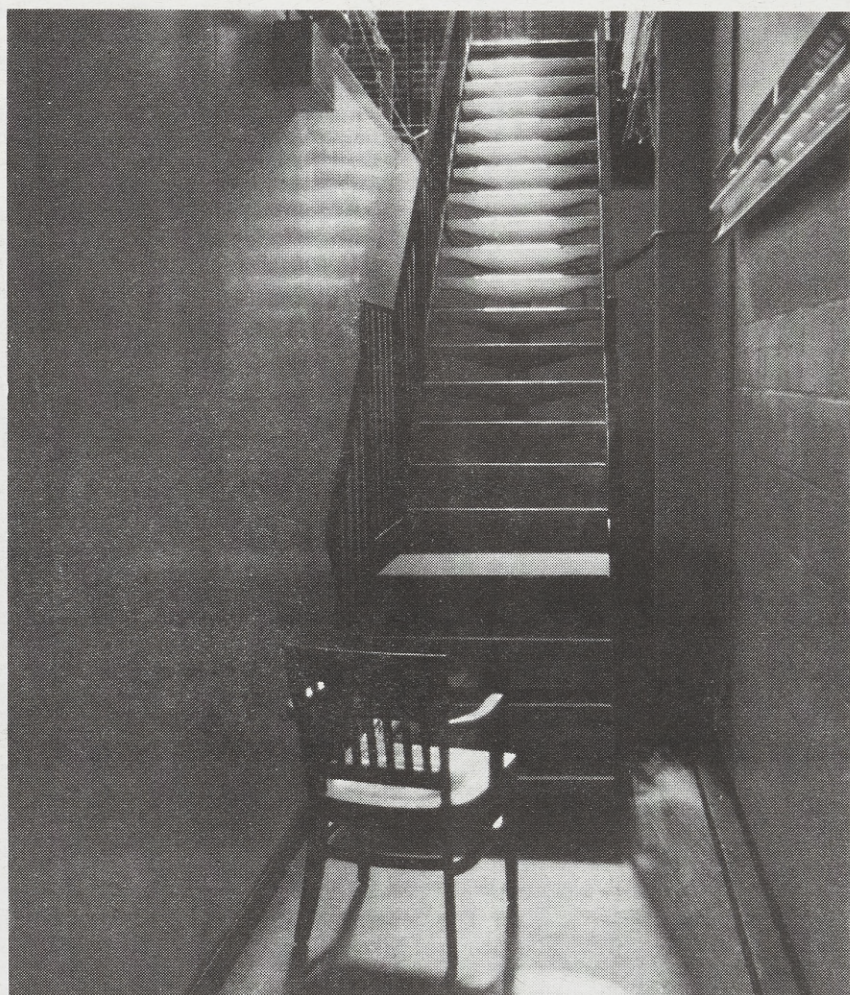
Given a chance to travel, where would you most like to do a shoot?

Europe: Italy, England, Spain! I wouldn't mind going across the U.S. either.



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A HOLIDAY REFLECTION ON QUEERS, GOATS AND GOD

BY TRYSTAN DEAN

"Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!" declares the Lord. Therefore this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: "Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done," declares the Lord. Jeremiah 23:1.

Having just returned from a heavenly day spent in community with other "different" folks at the Transcending Boundaries Conference in Worcester, a day that ended with a powerful dramatic performance by Peterson Toscano, presenting his new work, "Transfigurations," about the appearance of trans personalities in Biblical stories, I can't help but reflect upon my own Christian fundamentalist roots.

I claim a personal place within the mystical ground occupied by so many who are different, who perceive the world in a different way, that is primarily intuition-based. I understand that the rational is also powerful, important, and necessary, as the grounding anchor and staircase that guides all visionaries back to the here and now. Finding the balance between these 2 ways of knowing is important and necessary.

I have been poked repeatedly by Spirit for the last 2 days, asking me, with an annoying and increasingly insistent buzzing kind of feeling, to pull my NIV Bible off the bookshelf and discover a message waiting for me there.

This morning I grudgingly obliged and opened to Jeremiah. The verse quoted above leaped off the page and I felt moved and inspired to write. I have been thinking alot lately about GLBT community and healing, and the recent Trans Day of Remembrance I attended in Amherst has helped clarify some ideas that have been percolating.

I was born and raised in Kansas, adopted at birth by very strict, and deeply dysfunctional Christian fundamentalist Nazarenes. My father was an angry, violent man with limited social skills and intelligence. He was raised by a violent, deeply misogynistic father who beat him throughout his childhood.

Misogyny left its mark on my adopted mother as well. She has described her childhood as happy, and I believe it was, relative to the norm for the 1940's, but something shaped her in a way that left her vulnerable to marriage with a dangerous, hateful man, and compelled her to remain as her spirit gradually warped and diminished to accommodate his domination.

My twin brother and I were pulled into their emotional maelstrom through adoption at birth. We both developed survival strategies,

hiding our feelings, escaping with the help of books, tv, and daydreams, while waiting for adulthood to free us. In truth, no one is ever free from their childhood.

I'm sharing a glimpse of my roots to try to explain why I spend so much energy thinking about Christianity and formulating replies to a hateful fundamentalist mindset that holds that powerful women, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people deserve to suffer and die. I sometimes wish I could just challenge Fred Phelps to a duel, because I know I'd win. I feel a sacred certainty in my gut that God loves me just the way I am, and that I am beautifully made, as a thinking, feeling, inquisitive, FTM intersexed individual who is unafraid to seek my own truth in a world where too many relinquish their inner compass, and replace their individuality with a life-long effort to conform and obey.

Recently, at a friend's house, I was channel-surfing and caught a few seconds of a southern evangelist lecturing a room full of seemingly spell-bound women, telling them to guard their minds and not let in dangerous information. This female bible lecturer was specifically cautioning against studying "demonology." I chuckled, because if I had been in that room as a youngster, I would have gone straight to the library afterwards to begin researching "demonology" to try to figure out what was so scary. But the underlying message of this charismatic blonde dominatrix posing as a teacher was really: don't think too much, because it will diminish my control, and the Church's control, over you. And for those who have made a choice, somewhere along the way, to live their lives as obedient children, never embracing free will, free choice and the free thinking inherent to responsible adulthood, I'm sure her message was wholly and deeply embraced.

To me, this unhealthy emphasis on "obey and conform" is at the heart of norm-driven medicine, in all its forms, including psychology, which is why I personally demand a paradigm shift away from using norms to pathologize those who express radically different personal realities, including sexual orientation and gender expression.

But I also want to send a firm reply to those who teach hate in the name of Christ. I believe that if Jesus Christ were walking the planet today, he would have taught a workshop on "Unconditional Love" at the recent Transcending Boundaries Conference, held in Worcester, Ma. It is not heresy to form a personal relationship with Christ that allows for a unique, individually-tailored understanding of his message, which was 100% about holding one's personal conviction in the face of all opposition. Christ was born within an oppressed and enslaved community. He was expected, because of his bloodline, to exert a leadership role. Many around him attempted to groom him as a militant radical, someone who would command an armed revolt against the Romans.

Christ was born brilliant, with an inner awareness and a sense of destiny that allowed him to debate, even as a young child, with learned teachers. He was quickly recognized as someone different, and "special." He understood that violence could never secure a real solution to racial hatred. He taught loving patience, forgiveness, and

nonviolent communication to open minds and hearts to new ways of thinking.

He pissed everyone off, in his own community, and among the Romans, because he would not conform, would not obey, would not be shaped or led down any path he did not choose for himself. He was so sure of the power of love, that even after being tortured and impaled on a cross, one of his last conscious acts was to provide loving encouragement to a convicted thief, nailed up beside him, and publicly promise that thief a place in heaven.

I know I'm probably turning off a lot of my intellectual buddies with my fundie talk, but perhaps this isn't about you. It's about me, reconciling my view of queer community with my Christian roots.

I believe all those who call themselves Christians, including those dressed in silk and jewels representing Rome, and those in Protestant plain clothes, who teach hatred against those who do not conform, are delivering upon themselves and the heads of those who have chosen to follow in blind obedience, the same divine curse promised by God in Jeremiah to all shepherds who work to divide his flock.

The God who taught that goats with streaks and mottles are just as valuable as those who have pure white coats, and who sent a part of himself to Earth in the form of a son who would not conform, obey or respect any guidance that did not resound within his own heart, surely loves gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people, as well as all the other precious nonconformists within our world. We who listen to our own hearts and minds are the streaked and mottled members of the human flock. That so many of us have dedicated ourselves to nonviolent community building, patiently working to win acceptance from our larger community, without ever engaging in militant organized violence, is the most powerful testament we have to offer about the source of our deeply held convictions. All people are beautiful and beloved children of God, however we choose to name and worship the divine love that created us and holds our world together as we learn and grow. That was Christ's message, and he left it without blemish, holding strong till the end, so that this truth would never be forgotten, although so many are currently doing everything in their power

to subvert it. Fred Phelps, the Vatican, and all others who teach hatred in the name of God are part of the composite "Anti-Christ" in action.

I call upon all those who teach hatred to change their ways. I name you as heretics, as demonic, as anti-Christian, and avatars of the "Anti-Christ." You are sleepers, mindlessly obeying your deepest fears, anxieties and uncertainties. I encourage you to let go of these dark drivers and take a leap of faith into a place that is delimited by an unconditional, infinite love that is powerful enough to allow for every possible human variation. I invite you to let your minds think and imagine and explore, and to become your own judge for what is acceptable for you, and to stop projecting your fears and acting out your own self-hatred against innocent others. I invite you into responsible adulthood, as equal partners with the rest of humanity as we engage a future that is tolerant, loving and exploratory on all levels.

Blessed be, may the love of Christ fill all our hearts, and Gassho.

Trystan Dean is a 46-year-old intersexed Female to Male transgender/GLBT activist living in Western Massachusetts. Trystan spends most of his time caring for his spoiled rotten beagle, Tobey, and goofing around with his friends on Facebook. In his early twenties he received a full Buddhist ordination in Japan. Trystan has been active in GLBT community organizing for more than 2 decades, and identified as a butch lesbian for over 25 years, before recently coming out as Trans.



Sacramento

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For their December 12 show, Sacramento Dancesport Project will be bringing the world stars of same-sex dance to the Benvenuti Performing Arts Center again this year.

World champions of same-sex Latin dance, Benjamin Martin and his new dance partner, Gilles Hoxer, both from Copenhagen, will be headlining the Saturday Dec. 12 show.

"We're so pleased to be able to have Benjamin and his new partner, Gilles, in the show," said Camille Wojtasiak, world champion dancer, Sacramento Dancesport Project founder and show producer. "They are crowd-pleasers whose routines are always stunning."

The evening also will be the only chance to see other Latin dance champs such as Bas Gill and Martijn Diependaal, from Amsterdam, in Sacramento this year. Like Martin and Hoxer, Gill and Diependaal are returning from last year's sold-out show by popular demand.

"Fairy Tales: World Stars of Same-Sex Dance" also will feature a comedian, singers, Sac Dancesport dancers and others. "With the wide variety of entertainers we have this year, it is going to top all our previous shows," said Kristi Muraoka, production manager.

The show also will introduce

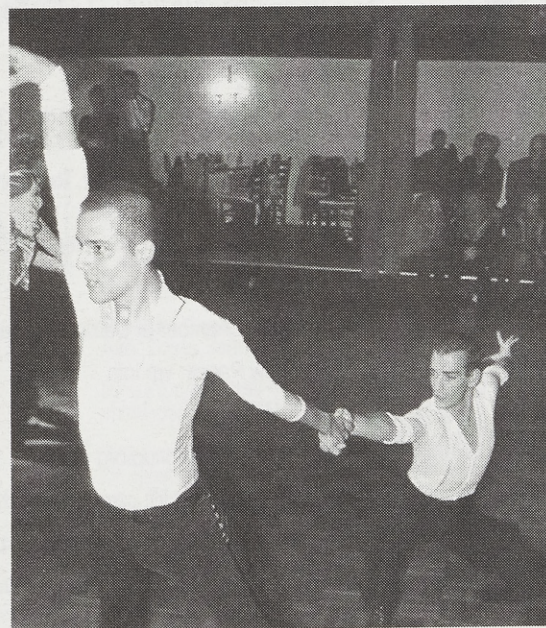
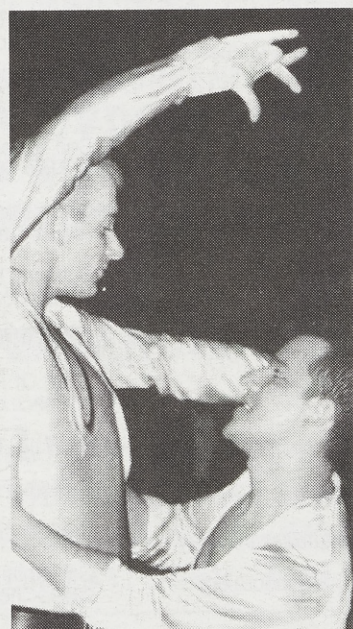
Wojtasiak's new dance partner, Michelle Mar, most recent winner of a silver scholarship at International Grand Ballroom.

Sacramento Dancesport, Fairy Tales: World Stars of Same-Sex Dance, Dec. 12, 2009, 7 p.m., Benvenuti Performing Arts Center, 4600 Blackrock Dr., Sacramento. World stars of same-sex dance add a gay sensibility to the already

exciting and popular dance world, a dynamite combination.

Tickets for the Saturday night performance are \$15 through \$50. Part of the proceeds go to Lambda Players.

Tickets can be bought online through Lambda Players at lambdaplayers.com. For more information, call 916.214.0933 or go to www.sacdancesport.com.



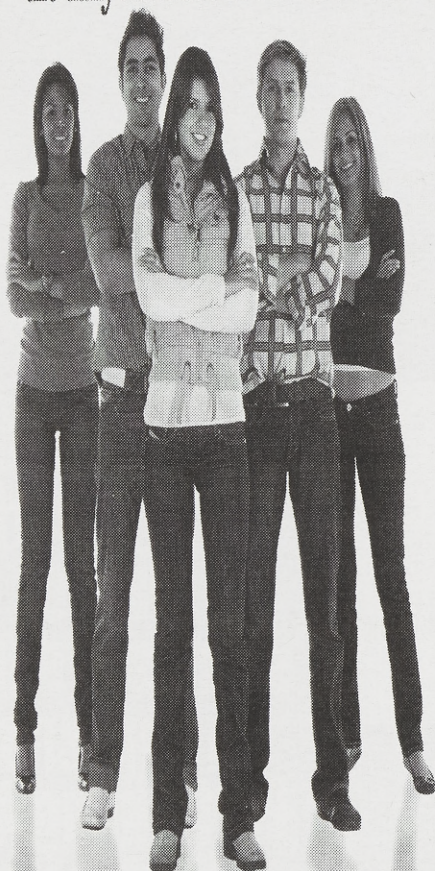
Sac Dancesport brings world stars of same-sex dance to Benvenuti Performing Arts Center for Dec.12 show

PHOTOS: BASS GILL AND MARTIJN DIEPENDAAL, LATIN DANCE CHAMPS FROM AMSTERDAM, STAR IN "FAIRY TALES: WORLD STARS OF SAME-SEX DANCE" AT THE BENVENUTI PERFORMING ARTS CENTER DECEMBER 12. BASENMARTIJN.NL



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ACTIVISM

Equality Action NOW, 916.446.1082, equalityactionnow.org

BARS

1099 Club: 1099 S. Virginia St. Reno NV, ten99club.com
775-329-1099

5-Star Saloon: 132 West St. Reno NV, 5starsaloon.com

Badlands Dance Bar: Mon - Sat 4pm to 2am, Sun 2pm to 2am, 2003 K St., 916.448.8790, sacbadlands.com

BoJangles: 18+, 1119 21st St. (Moving Next To Headhunters Soon)

Bolt Bar: Leather/Cowboy/Bear, Open 5pm-2am Mon - Fri, 2pm-2am Sat and Sun, 2560 Boxwood St., sacbolt.com

Brave Bull, 701 S 9th St., Modesto, 209-529-6712, thebravebull.com

Cadillac Lounge, 1114 E. Fourth St. Reno NV

Club 21: 1119 21st St.

Club Yamagata, 16225 Main Street Guerneville, clubyamagata.com, 707-869-9383

Depot Video Bar: 2001 K St., 916-441-6823, Mon - Fri 4pm - 2am, Sat and Sun 2pm - 2am, thedepot.net

FACES Nightclub: 2000 K St., 916-448-7798, faces.net

Mercantile Saloon: 1928 L St., 916.447-0792

Headhunters/ROK: Restaurant, Bar Service until 2am, 1930 K Street, headhuntersonk.com

Mustang Club, 413 7TH St, Modesto, 209-522-0393

Neutron Bar, 340 Kietzke Lane - Reno

Rainbow Cattle CO, 16220 Main St. Guerneville, queersteer.com, 707-869-0206

Russian River Resort (Triple R), 16390 4th St. Guerneville russianriverresort.com, 707-869-0691

The Patio: 600 West 5th St. Reno NV. 775-323-6565, thepatio.com

Tronix: 303 Kietzke Lane, Reno NV

BUSINESS

Rainbow Chamber of Commerce: rainbowchamber.com

Rainbow Pages: vrp.info

FAMILY

Camp it Up: campitup.org

Camp Lavender Hill: camplavenderhill.org

Lesbian Families: geocities.com/lesbianfamilies/index.html

PFLAG Sonora/Mother Lode Chapter: pflagsonora.org

Sacramento PFLAG: 916-978-0410, pflagsacramento.org

FESTIVALS - EVENTS

Reno Gay Pride, renogaypride.com

Sacramento Pride: (June) sacramentopride.org

Rainbow Festival: rainbowfestival.com

Sac. International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival: siglff.org

Sac. Earth Day: (ECOS), 909 12th Street, Suite 100, 916-444-0022, sacramentoearthday.net

Sonoma County Pride. Guerneville

GALLERIES

Crocker Art Museum: crockerartmuseum.org

Kennedy Gallery: mmkgallery.com

HIV | AIDS

Anonymous HIV Testing Services: Harm reduction Services, 3647 40th St., Wednesdays 8am - 5pm; 916-875-6022

Breaking Barriers: 200 21st St., 916-447-2437, admin@bbcs.org, breakingbarriers.org

Capital City AIDS Fund: capcityaidsfund.org

CARES: 1500 21st St., 916-443-3299, caresclinic.org

Face to Face - Sonoma Co. AIDS Network www.f2f.org 707-544-1581

Golden Rule Services: 4433 Florin Road, Suite 760. 916-427-GOLD, goldenrules.info

NorCal AIDS Challenge: norcalaidschallenge.net

Northern Nevada H.O.P.E.S., P.O. Box 6420, Reno NV. nnhopes.org, 888-467-3144

Sacramento Valley AIDS Run/Walk: 916-448-1110, sacvalleyaidsrunwalk.org

Sac. Valley Pozabilities: sacvalleypozabilities@yahoo.com, PO Box 161871, Sacramento, CA 95816-1871

Sierra Hope: Sierra HOPE, 1168 Booster Way, P.O. Box 159, Angels Camp, CA, 95222, 209.736.6792, sierrahope.org

Sunburst Projects: 1025 19th Street, Suite 1A, 916-440-0889, sunburstprojects.org

IMPERIAL COURT

Court Of The Great Northwestern Imperial Empire (CGNIE): myspace.com/cgnie

LAW | POLITICS

California Communities United Institute calcomui.org

Central Valley Stonewall Democratic Club: cvstonewall.org

California Capital Political Action Committee (CAP/PAC): cappac.net

Green Party of Sacramento County: P.O. Box 2082, Sacramento, CA 95812, 916-484-4000, sacgreens.org

Libertarian Party of Sac.: P.O. Box 3003, Orangevale, CA 95662, lpsacramento.com

Log Cabin Republicans: logcabin.org/
logcabinca/sacramento_chapter.html

SAC Legal: saclegal.org

Stonewall Democrats of Sac.: P.O. Box 161623, Sacramento, CA 95816-1623, 916-441-1787, sacstonewall.org

NEW MEDIA

Being Gay Today: Comcast Cable. Access Sac, channel 17. Thurs. 10pm, Now on myspace and youtube. beinggaytoday.com

Checkered Nation Video Show: checkerednation.com

Transponder Radio: trans-ponder.com

PERFORMANCE

A Small Difference Women's Choral Ensemble: smalldifference.org

Sac. Gay Men's Chorus: sacgaymenschorus.org

Sacramento DanceSport: sacdancesport.com

True Colors Women's Chorus: 877-758-7827, truecolorschorus.org

RELIGION - SPIRITUALITY

A Church For All: 721 North B Street, Sacramento, CA, 95816-2073, 916-502-5603, spirit@achurchforall.org, achurchforall.org

Atheists and Other Freethinkers: aofonline.org

Atonement Lutheran: at-one.org

Grove of the Oak: groveoftheoak.org

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer: lorsac.org

Pioneer Congregational Church: 2700 L

Street, 916-443-3727, uccwebsites.net/pioneercongsacramentoca.html

Sacramento Friends Meeting (Quaker) 890 57th St, Sacramento., 916-457-3998 sacfriendsmtg.org

St. Mark's United Methodist Church: stmarksumc.com

St. Paul's Episcopal Church: 1430 J Street, 916.446.2620, stpaulssacramento.org

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral: 2620 Capitol Ave., 916-446-2513, trinitycathedral.org

Valley Ministries: 4118 Coronado Ave, Stockton. 209-464-5244, valleyministries.com

RESOURCES

Amador County LGBTQQ Support Group: 209-223-6412

GaySacramento.org

Lavender Library: lavenderlibrary.org

yourgayreno.com

outsacramento.com

Diversity R Us: groups.yahoo.com/group/diversityrus

Foothill Lesbians and Gays Social Network (FLAG): flagamador.webs.com

Gaysonoma.com: gaysonoma.com

Nevada County Pride: nevadacountypride.org

Out In The Mother Lode: outinthemotherlode.org

Rainbow Frontier: 1-800-801-6330 or 530-283-6358, rainbowfrontier.org

Sac. Gay & Lesbian Center: saccenter.org

Sierra Gay Men's Network: sgmn.org

Solano Pride Center: 1125 Missouri St., Ste. 203-D, Fairfield, CA 94533, 707-427-2356, solanopride.org

Stanislaus Pride Center: stanpride.org

Stonewall Alliance of Chico: stonewallchico.org

SENIORS

Senior Gays: SeniorGays.org

Prime Timers of Sacramento: PrimeTimersSac@comcast.net at 916-647-9587.

SOCIAL GROUPS

Capital City Squares: iagsdc.org/capitalcity

High Sierra Primetimers, 1730 Aquila Dr. Reno, 775-324-6785

Males Au Naturel Sacramento (MANS) - groups. yahoo.com/group/malesaunaturesacramento

Natomas LGBTQ: natomaslgbtq.wordpress.com

Sac Woof Society: sacwoofsociety.net

Gay Men's Book Group: groups.yahoo.com/group/sacgaybookgroup
Pink Pistols - pinkpistols.org/local/sacramento

Sacramento Professional Men's Group: groups.yahoo.com/group/SacramentoProfessionalMensGroup

Sac. Valley Bears: sacvalleybears.org

Sac. Valley Knights: valleyknights.org

Sac. Valley LeatherCorps: svclub.org

Western Slope Men's Social Group: groups.yahoo.com/group/WesternSlopeMensSocialGroup

Yuba-Sutter Unity: gayyubasutter.com, groups. yahoo.com/group/Yuba-Sutter-Unity

SPORTS

CHEER Sacramento: cheersacramento.org

Frontrunners of Sacramento: frsac.org

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans: motherlode.sierraclub.org/gls

Gay Sport Bike Riders of Sacramento autos. groups.yahoo.com/group/SAC_GSR

River City Bowlers: rivercitybowlers.homestead.com/about.html

Sac. Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association (SCCGRA): capitalcrossroads.org

Sacred City Derby Girls (SCDG): sacredcityderbygirls.com

THEATRE | FILM

Lambda Players: 1114 20th St., 916-444-8229, lambdaplayers.com

24th Street Theatre: Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th Street, 916-452-3005, sierra2.org

Capital Stage: Delta King: 1000 Front Street, www.capstage.org

Mondavi Center: 530-754-ARTS, One Shields Ave. Davis, mondaviarts.org

Shiny Object: 600 4th St. West Sacramento, shiny-object.com

The Crest Theatre: 1013 K St., 916-44-CREST. thecrest.com

TRANS SUPPORT

Sac. Gay & Lesbian Center Trans Support: 916-442-0185, Ext. 102. 1927 L St., saccenter.org

Kings of Drag: kingsofdrag.com

Sac. Gender Alliance: 916-442-0185, Ext. 141, saccenter.org

Sigma Delta Gamma "Sac. Delta Girls": 916-359-2328, geocities.com/Sigma_Delta_Gamma

Transgender Law Center: 870 Market St. Room 823, San Francisco, 415-865-0176, transgenderlawcenter.org

Sacramento FTM Support Group, Lavendar Library located at 1414 21st St. Sacramento, lavenderlibrary.org

Sacramento Transgender Coalition: sactgc.org

Trans Families Sacramento: transfamilies@sactgc.org

River City Gems: info@rivercitygems.org

Sutter Gender Identity Support Group Meets on the third Saturday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Sutter General Hospital, 2nd floor Conference Room C, 2801 L St, Sacramento.

Sacramento Trans Youth: sacTyouth-owner@yahoo.com

Colage: 1550 Bryant Street, Suite 830, San Francisco. 415-851-KIDS, colage@colage.org

Our Family Coalition: 870 Market Street, Suite 872, San Francisco, 415-981-1960, info@ourfamily.org

TransGender San Francisco (TGSF): 415-839-9448, transgendersanfrancisco@yahoo.com

Trans:Thrive: 815 Hyde Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, 415-409-4101

WOMEN

Adventure Out Women: adventureoutwomen.com

Lesbian Cancer Support: Meets third Monday of each month at 6:30pm. ROXANNE1040@aol.com

Sac NOW: sacnow.org

Sisters of Santa Foothills Chapter: soswmcfoothills.org

Sisters of Santa Women's Motorcycle Club (SOSWMC): SOSWMC@hotmail.com, soswmc.org

Sac. Area Lesbian Health Resource Guide: saclesbianhealth.com

Women On Wednesdays: saccenter.org

YOUTH

CSUS Pride Center: Lassen Hall 3011, 6000 J Street. 916.278.8720, Email: pride@csus.edu, csus.edu/pride

Delta Lambda Phi: dlp.org/iota/DLP.htm

Lambda Delta Lambda: ldlucdavis.org/about.htm

Rainbow Club Of American River College: geocities.com/arc_LGBTqclub

Queer Straight Alliance CSUS: myspace.com/queerstraightalliance

RESPECT Sacramento: RespectSacramento.org

U.C. Davis LGBT Resource Center: 530-752-2452, lgbcenter.ucdavis.edu

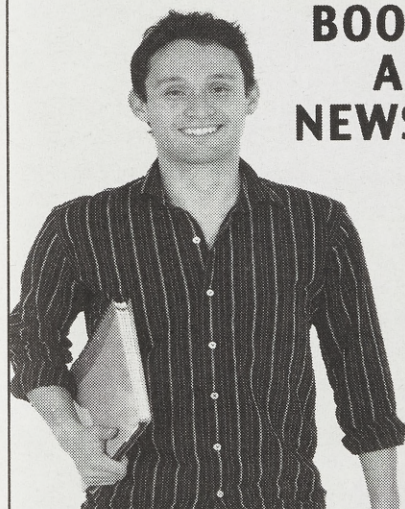
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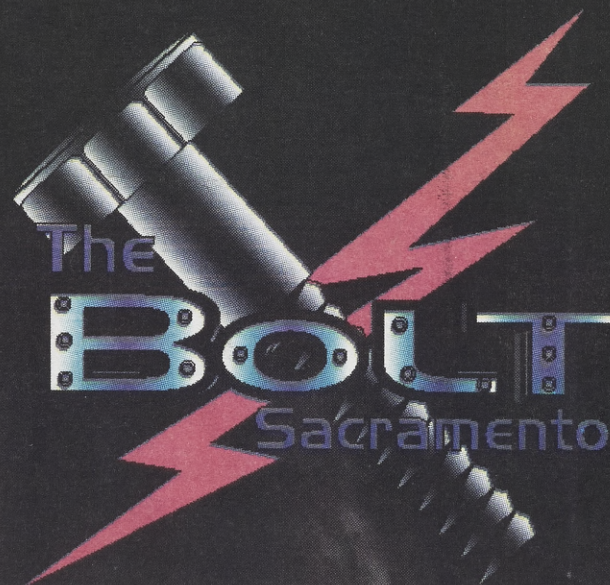
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SATURDAY: NOON - 6PM
SUNDAY: NOON - 6PM**



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CAPITAL CROSSROADS COWBOY/COWGIRL SOCIAL TUES., DEC. 8, 2009

THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, JOIN THE COWBOYS AND COWGIRLS OF THE SACRAMENTO CAPITAL CROSSROADS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION AT THE BOLT FOR FREE NACHOS, FREE POOL, AND \$8 BEER/SODA BUST FROM 7PM TO 10:30PM! NO COVER!

RIPPED LEVIS CONTEST & BEER BUST FRI., DEC. 11, 2009

LOOK HOT IN RIPPED-UP JEANS? LIKE TO SHOW IT OFF? SQUEEZE INTO YOUR BEST PAIR AND COME OUT TO THE BOLT FOR THE RIPPED LEVIS CONTEST AND \$8 BEER/SODA BUST FROM 8PM TO MIDNIGHT! PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE FAIRY GODFATHERS FUND! AS ALWAYS, NO COVER!

CHRISTMAS EVE THUR., DEC. 24, 2009

IT'S THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS AND YOU'RE INVITED TO THE BOLT FOR AN EVENING OF DRINK SPECIALS AND COMPLIMENTARY HORS D'OEUVRES! THE DOORS OPEN AT 5PM! NO COVER!